

FCSO Column

SST Trains with Neighboring SWAT Teams

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office Special Services Team along with SWAT teams from Washington County, Fort Detrick and Carroll County were busy in Myersville during March. With the planned demolition of the former Myersville town hall building, the town offered the building to be used for training prior to being leveled.

The training included table-top drills, scenarios and explosive breaching. Each team got to conduct at least two operations and explosive breachers from all around the region, representing 11 police and federal agencies, practiced their craft at making difficult entries easier.

"When someone offers up a place to train for some of the more intrusive aspects of our job, it's often times a location that's on the verge of falling down. To get a place that's structurally sound, where we can practice elements of the job without regard to the amount of damage we're doing is a rare opportunity," said Cpl. Mike Grunwell.

The training encompassed deploying snipers, conducting explosive entries, rescuing hostages, dealing with armed bank robbers, foreign and domestic terrorists, and conducting drug warrants. Breachers blasted entryways through block walls to access rooms where doors were not practical, blew shooting ports through block and plaster walls, and used explosives to open a number of styles and sizes of barricaded doors where mechanical methods were impractical.

According to Cpl. Grunwell, the training was very effective and allowed teams a rare opportunity to collect data that will be shared throughout the state and region.



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DATES TO REMEMBER

- MAY 3RD – 9TH
NATIONAL CORRECTIONS WEEK
- MAY 9TH – 15TH
NATIONAL POLICE WEEK



Brothers Making a Difference

In March, Courthouse Dep. Martin Fisher and his brother Wayne Fisher, who is also a county employee at the Sheriff's Office Motor Pool, traveled to New Orleans to help rehab a home that was badly damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The two traveled with 18 other people from several churches associated with United Church of Christ. During the week long mission trip they helped with exterior painting and the installation of insulation and drywall. "I really want to give back since I've had such a good life," said Martin. "I really have a good time helping others." The group stayed in dormitory style accommodations at St. Paul United Church of Christ.



From left to right: Wayne Fisher and Courthouse Dep. Martin Fisher

This is the second trip Dep. Fisher and his brother have made to New Orleans. In 2008 they rehabbed a home in a different neighborhood and in 2007 Martin traveled to Biloxi, Mississippi to do similar work. "I enjoy meeting different people," said Martin.

"Everywhere we go people seem to know why we're there and they're very appreciative."

Martin and Wayne were able to get in a bit of sightseeing to some of the more distinctive areas of New Orleans; the French Quarter, Musicians' Village, the Ninth Ward, and St. Bernard Parish. They also enjoyed some authentic Cajun cuisine.

Investigators Obtain Fire Marshal Certifications

FCBI Detectives Cpl. Jason West, Dfc. Daniel Romeril and Dfc. Chris Smith received formal fire investigative training through the National Fire Academy, which was sponsored by the ATF, and the Public Agency Training Council. Personnel are either certified or seeking professional certifications as a "Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator" through the National Association of Fire Investigators and/or "Fire Investigation Technician" through the International Association of Arson Investigators. These professional credentials were sought in order to demonstrate the tested knowledge of the investigators in the area of fire investiga-

tion. If the FCBI investigators are called on to testify as an expert witness in a court of law regarding a fire investigation, their professional certifications would be presented in order to qualify the investigators as an "expert."

The testing for these certifications consists of a comprehensive written examination, pre-requisite training, and an evaluation of the investigators' professional resume. The written examination is based on fire science, fire behavior, building code, evidence collection, and numerous other nationally accepted fire investigation practices.

Community Labor Unit Receives Certificate of Appreciation

On January 23rd, 2010 the Frederick County Adult Detention Center's Community Labor Unit was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for all the hard work they do at the Urbana station. The Community Labor Unit stops by the fire company once a week to assist with general cleaning, floor maintenance, and events like the local carnival and fundraisers. The presentation was made at the Urbana Volunteer Fire Company.



Urbana VFC President Doug Smith, Sheriff Jenkins and Cfc. Jeffery Diseati.

CTC Student Interns at Sheriff's Office



Renee Weddle, Stephanie Beck and Lt. Tom Winebrenner

Stephanie Beck has been a student at the Career and Technology Center studying Criminal Justice for three years. The program, which is normally a two year program, offered her a chance to come back for a third

year to extend her studies because she was in the top of her class. During her three years, she obtained her SkillsUSA Statesman and Advanced Statesman Awards. She is a member of the National Technical Honor Society, along with the National Honor Society at her home school, Gov. Thomas Johnson High School. Stephanie has also competed in the SkillsUSA Crime Scene competitions for three years where her team took first at the regional level this year. She has

also competed in the Maryland State Bar Association Mock Trial competitions for two years and was voted best lawyer.

As an extended technical student, Stephanie obtained an internship with the Sheriff's Office. So far she has spent time assisting with different jobs like filing and paperwork, placing property into evidence, has taken two ride a-longs and toured the detention center. She also worked with investigators on a burglary and sexual predator case, which she found very interesting.

Next year Stephanie plans on attending Mount Saint Mary's University where she will major in criminal justice and computer science. When she finishes college, Stephanie plans on obtaining a job in the FBI working in their Cyber Unit. Stephanie completes her internship with Sheriff's Office May 14th.

Dfc. Kevin Lynch Receives Award

On April 10th Dfc. Kevin Lynch received the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #371 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. He was honored for the heroic actions he took in November 2009 when he observed flames shooting in the air at an Exxon Station in Frederick County. When he arrived he observed a vehicle and gas pumps fully engulfed in flames with a male victim in close proximity.

Even though the fire was quickly spreading to the structural overhang of the pumps, Dep. Lynch ran past the fire towards the victim. As he got closer, Dep. Lynch saw

the victim was on fire so he ran into the store grabbing bottles of water to extinguish the fire on the victim. Dep. Lynch was able to extinguish the fire but the victim had already suffered fatal injuries.

Dep. Lynch acted without regard for his own welfare in an effort to save the victim. Although the victim subsequently died, in his last moments, Dep. Lynch provided assistance and a calming reassurance. Thank you for a job well done.

Crime in the County Down 7%

Commenting on the 2009 Uniform Crime Statistics, Sheriff Chuck Jenkins said, "I am very pleased to see that crime is down 7% throughout Frederick County. It's evident that law enforcement agencies in this community are effectively working well together, one example being the Frederick County Bureau of Investigation (FCBI) established in 2009. I am particularly happy with the 13% decrease in crime in the areas of the county served by the Frederick County Sheriff's Office." Several of the programs and initiatives like the 287g Program, Pro-Active Criminal Enforcement (PACE), and a very effective Crime Analysis Unit are also making a significant positive impact on property and person crimes.

Similar to the Maryland State Police, the Frederick County Sheriff's Office saw a

large increase in homicides directly attributed to family violence. Three categories of crimes that showed very marked decreases for the Sheriff's Office were robberies, aggravated assaults, and motor vehicle thefts. Sheriff Jenkins said, "I believed that having taken the time to listen to concerns of residents throughout Frederick County with the town hall meetings and our community policing efforts, and being responsive to those concerns, has really started to pay dividends to our citizens. The numbers are improving, and while we are more visible than ever throughout Frederick County, much credit should be given to the cooperation and involvement of the public. We all have to work together to be successful, and the numbers indicate that we are."

Mock Assessment Conducted

In February, as preparation for the onsite Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) inspection, the Sheriff's Office conducted a mock assessment with professionals from neighboring agencies. There are a total of 464 standards that the Sheriff's Office must meet in order to attain the accreditation from CALEA.

The "dry-run" review of the accreditation files by knowledgeable accreditation practitioners is not a required component of the accreditation process, but is an effective quality control measure to assure a smooth inspection. The mock assessment went well and the agency received much positive feedback.

"This is a constant and ongoing process," said Jerry Griffin, assessment coordinator. "It is a daily process of maintaining and updating our files," he said.

This is the fifth time the Sheriff's Office has been through the accreditation process. The upcoming CALEA inspection is set for April 24th—27th.



Photos of Mock Assessors



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Difference*

To submit an article
to the FCSO
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Evidence Technicians in the Making



Crime Scene Unit Supervisor
Cpl. Rick Winer instructs on
proper crime scene processing

Six members of the Sheriff's Office successfully completed the *2010 Basic Crime Scene Investigators Class* in March. The 80-hour course instructs students on proper crime scene processing and photography. The class covered topics like fingerprinting, shoe wear evidence, tire evidence, trace and fiber evidence collection, DNA processing techniques, scene search techniques and impression casting.

A new element of the course was the addition of discussions of case studies and actual crime scenes handled by the Sheriff's

Office Crime Scene Unit. Students reviewed "lessons learned" from past cases and discussed cases depicted on episodes of the television show *Forensic Files* daily.

The class visited the Maryland State Police Laboratory in Pikesville where they met with each discipline at the new lab to discuss forensic topics with lab personnel. This was a real treat for students. The class concluded with three real-life scenarios at the Fairfield Inn in Frederick. The Inn provided recently vacated rooms, which added authenticity to the staged crime scene. Role players were also used for the students to interview. This dynamic gave students valuable information about the scenario and helped them to properly process the scene.

This graduating class brings the evidence technician total up to 16 members. To date, the Sheriff's Office has had a total of fifty members complete evidence technician training over the last seventeen years.

Dfc. Todd Joia, Dfc. Nathan Rector, Dfc. Tim Grove, Dfc. Anthony Reggio, Dfc. Lisa Wisor, and Courthouse Dep. Theresa Patton attended the training.